

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-23. (Canceled).

24. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for sealing a puncture tract disposed within tissue, the apparatus comprising:

a housing;

a manifold having an inlet port and a central opening, the manifold slidably engaging with the housing and being configured to receive a closure agent;

a shaft slidably disposed through the housing and the central opening of the manifold, the shaft having an expandable member disposed from a distal end of the shaft~~through the housing,~~ the expandable member being configured to be disposed within the puncture tract to stabilize the tissue; and

a plurality of needles mounted to the manifold, the plurality of needles being slidable with the manifold to extend from ~~coupled to the~~ housing, the plurality of needles configured to penetrate tissue surrounding the puncture tract to deliver ~~the~~ closure agent from the manifold into the tissue to thereby seal the puncture tract.

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the expandable member is configured to be disposed within the puncture tract to stabilize the tissue during insertion of the plurality of needles.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising a stop configured to limit translation of the plurality of needles into the tissue.

28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising an actuator coupled to the plurality of needles for selective translation of the plurality of needles.

29. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the ~~housing further comprises a manifold~~ is configured to cooperate within a source of the closure agent, wherein the closure agent received in the manifold comprises a biodegradable substance.

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the biodegradable substance is chosen from the group consisting of a water swellable gel, collagen, a saline bolus, a slurry of a biocompatible substance, and combinations thereof.

31. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the ~~housing further comprises a manifold~~ is configured to cooperate with a source of the closure agent, wherein the closure agent received in the manifold comprises an inflammatory substance that causes a localized inflammation response.

32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the inflammatory substance comprises copper sulfate.

33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising at least one balloon coupled to the plurality of needles, the at least one balloon being the closure agent.

34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the plurality of needles are coated with the closure agent.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein each one of the plurality of needles comprises a distal tip configured to penetrate the tissue, a distal aperture, and a lumen that couples the distal aperture to a source of closure agent.

36. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 33, further comprising a radiopaque marker disposed adjacent to the distal tip of each one of the plurality of needles.

37. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 26 further comprising a radiopaque band disposed on the distal end of the shaft.

38. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein ~~the housing further comprises a manifold having an inlet port,~~ the manifold in fluid communication with the plurality of needles.

39. (Canceled)

40. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the expandable member has a deployed configuration configured for engagement with an interior surface of a vessel.

41. (Canceled).

42. (Canceled).

43. (Canceled).

44. (Canceled).

45. (Canceled).

46. (Canceled).

47. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for sealing a puncture tract disposed within tissue, the apparatus comprising:

a housing having a base with a lumen;

a manifold having an inlet port and a central opening, the manifold slidably engaging with the housing and being configured to receive a closure agent;

a shaft ~~an expandable member~~ disposed through the lumen of the housing and the central opening of the manifold, the shaft[[and]] including a stop configured to cooperate with the base, the shaft having an expandable member disposed from a distal end of the shaft, the expandable member being configured to be disposed within the puncture tract to stabilize the tissue, the stop being configured to limit longitudinal movement of the manifold relative to the expandable member; and

a plurality of needles mounted to the manifold, the plurality of needles being slidable

with the manifold to extend from ~~coupled to~~ the housing, the plurality of needles configured to penetrate tissue surrounding the puncture tract to deliver ~~[[a]]~~ the closure agent received from the manifold into the tissue, thereby sealing the puncture tract.

48. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 47, wherein the expandable member is configured to be disposed within the puncture tract to stabilize the tissue during insertion of the plurality of needles.

49. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 47, further comprising an actuator coupled to the plurality of needles for selective translation of the plurality of needles.